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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/530,553	07/21/2000	GERALD DEBOY	POO0578	6916

7590 05/29/2002

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EXAMINER

BROCK II, PAUL E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2815

DATE MAILED: 05/29/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/530,553

Applicant(s)

DEBOY ET AL.

Examiner

Paul E Brock II

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 April 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 16-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 17-19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16 and 20-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 29 April 2002 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. This application contains claims 17 – 19 drawn to an invention non-elected with traverse in Paper No. 11. A complete reply to the final rejection must include cancellation of non-elected claims or other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144) See MPEP § 821.01.

Drawings

2. The proposed drawing correction and/or the proposed substitute sheets of drawings, filed on April 29, 2002 have been approved. A proper drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The correction to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 16 – 26 and 29 – 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hsu et al. (USPAT 5521105, Hsu).

With regard to claim 16, Hsu discloses in figure 1 a high voltage resistant edge structure in an edge region of a semiconductor component. Hsu discloses in figure 1 a semiconductor body having at least one inner zone (12) of a first conductivity type adjacent to a first surface of said semiconductor body. Hsu discloses in figure 1 at least one floating guard ring (18) of a second conductivity type arranged in said inner zone. Hsu discloses in figure 1 inter-ring zones (19) of said first conductivity type respectively arranged in said inner zone, said inter-ring zones being allocated in pairs to each of said floating guard rings, said inter-ring zones being arranged laterally such that they separate two respective consecutive floating guard rings from one another. Hsu discloses in figure 1 wherein at least one of said floating guard rings and said inter-ring zones have at least one of conductivities and geometries set such that their free charge carriers are totally depleted when a blocking voltage is applied.

With regard to claim 20, Hsu discloses in figure 1 wherein said floating guard rings have one of a U-shaped cross section.

With regard to claim 21, Hsu discloses in figure 1 at least one space charge zone stopper located at an outermost edge of said edge region of said semiconductor component.

With regard to claim 22, Hsu discloses in figure 1 wherein said space charge zone stopper comprises a heavily doped region (16) of said first conductivity type, said heavily doped region being arranged in said inner zone.

With regard to claim 23, Hsu discloses in figure 1 wherein said space charge zone stopper comprises a damage implanted region (16) being arranged in said inner zone.

With regard to claim 24, Hsu discloses in figure 1 wherein said space charge zone stopper comprises an electrode (23) connected to said inner zone, said electrode being polysilicon.

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With regard to claim 25, Hsu discloses in figure 1 at least one magnetoresistor located at an inner edge of said edge region of said semiconductor component.

With regard to claim 26, Hsu discloses in figure 1 wherein at least one of said magnetoresistors is simultaneously a gate electrode of said semiconductor component.

With regard to claim 29, Hsu discloses in figure 1 wherein said inter-ring zones in said edge region have a cross-section tapered to said first surface.

With regard to claim 30, Hsu discloses in figure 1 wherein the semiconductor component is a vertical power transistor.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 27 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsu as applied to claims 16 and 25 above and further in view of Ludikhuize (USPAT 5883413).

With regard to claim 27, Hsu teaches in figure 2g that an outermost of the magnetoresistor is enclosed by a cathode metallization (60) in a direction of the first surface of the semiconductor component. Ludikhuize teaches in figure 1 wherein at least an outermost of a magnetoresistors is nearly completely enclosed by a cathode metallization (10) in a direction of a first surface of a semiconductor component (4). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary

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skill in the art at the time of the present invention to use the cathode metallization of Ludikhuizen in the method of Hsu in order to reduce peaks in the localized electric field, thereby increasing the breakdown voltage of the transistor.

With regard to claim 28, Hsu teaches in figure 2g wherein said cathode metallization is a metallization of a source electrode of said semiconductor component.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed April 29, 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

8. With regard to the applicant's arguments that "p-doped regions 18 of Hsu... do not have a ring form," it should be noted that a ring form is not structurally defined in the claims over Hsu. As the applicant points out, Hsu teaches that the p-doped regions are islands. An island can have a ring form. No descriptions of the "ring form" in the specification or the drawings can be found that distinguish the ring of the claims over the island of Hsu. Therefore, the rejection is proper.

9. In response to applicant's arguments, the recitation "edge structure" has not been given patentable weight because the recitation occurs in the preamble. A preamble is generally not accorded any patentable weight where it merely recites the purpose of a process or the intended use of a structure, and where the body of the claim does not depend on the preamble for completeness but, instead, the process steps or structural limitations are able to stand alone. See

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In re Hirao, 535 F.2d 67, 190 USPQ 15 (CCPA 1976) and *Kropa v. Robie*, 187 F.2d 150, 152, 88 USPQ 478, 481 (CCPA 1951).

Conclusion

10. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul E Brock II whose telephone number is (703)308-6236. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM-5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eddie Lee can be reached on (703)308-1690. The fax phone numbers for the

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organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)308-7722 for regular communications and (703)308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0956.

Paul E Brock II
May 23, 2002



EDDIE LEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800